

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00598 061246Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

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R 021240Z JUN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2057

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0598

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, IZ

SUBJECT: USINT R&R

REF: 3 FAM 698.5

1. USINT BAGHDAD SUBMITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATED R&R LOCATION FOR IRAQ FROM ATHENS, GREECE TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA. ON THE RECENT R&R TRAVEL OF THE USINT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE WERE SUBJECTED TO TEAR-GASSING BY ATHENS POLICE WHO WERE TRYING TO CONTROL A HUGE MOB STORMING THE U.S. EMBASSY. DAMAGE TO THE EMBASSY IN THIS PARTICULAR DEMONSTRATION WAS EXTENSIVE, REQUIRING ITS CLOSING DOWN DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE ADMINOFF'S STAY IN ATHENS.

2. ALTHOUGH SUCH INCIDENTS ARE NOT UNKNOWN IN OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS, THE RECENT POLITICAL HISTORY IN GREECE HAS BEEN TURBULENT, WITH CONSIDERABLE ACCOMPANYING ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT. A LESS EXPLOSIVE SITE FOR REST AND RECUPERATION TRAVEL FOR USINT PERSONNEL IS DESIRABLE. REF FAM PROVIDES THAT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF EACH POST HAS THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DESIGNATE SUITABLE R&R POINTS FOR THAT POST. DESIGNATION OF VIENNA VICE ATHENS WOULD ENTAIL ADDITIONAL EXPENSE OF 33 DOLLARS PER PERSON.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL.

LOWRIE

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NNN

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